

Message Text

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51

ACTION DLOS-05

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CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02 H-02 INR-07

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SUBJ: REPORT ON GENERAL COMMITTEE AND PLENARY COMMITTEE

FROM US DEL LOS

FOR: D/LOS - PLEASE PASS ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS EXCEPT USMISSION
GENEVA, USDEL MTN GENEVA, AND USDEL SALT II GENEVA

1. SUMMARY: GENERAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION WAS ADOPTED BY
PLENARY COMMITTEE THAT FOURTH SESSION OF LOS CONFERENCE BE HELD
IN NEW YORK FOR EIGHT WEEKS COMMENCING MARCH 29, 1976. END
SUMMARY.

2. GENERAL COMMITTEE: FOLLOWING PROPOSALS WERE RECOMMENDED: (A)
THAT FOURTH SESSION OF LOS CONFERENCE BY HELD IN NEW YORK FOR
EIGHT WEEKS COMMENCING 29 MARCH 1976; (B) THAT THE DECISION RE-
GARDING SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS BE LEFT FOR THE DETERMINATION BY LOS
CONFERENCE; (C) THAT GENERAL ASSEMBLY BE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE
FOR A FIFTH SESSION IN 1976 IF NECESSARY; (D) THAT THE GENERAL
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ASSEMBLY REQUEST THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO GIVE HIGHEST PRIORITY

TO THE CONFERENCE IN PROVIDING CONFERENCE FACILITIES.

3. COMMENT ON GENERAL COMMITTEE: AMERASINGHE GAVELED THROUGH ABOVE DECISIONS AFTER FAIRLY LENGTHY DEBATE WITH FRANCE, USSR, IRAQ AND SOME OTHERS OBJECTING TO ANY SUGGESTION THAT CONFERENCE HAD TO COMPLETE ITS WORK IN 1976. AMERASINGHE'S ORIGINAL IDEA, WHICH IS NOT YET ABANDONED DESPITE GENERAL COMMITTEE ACTION, WAS TO HAVE ONE NEGOTIATING SESSION AND THEN ANOTHER VOTING SESSION IN 1976 FOLLOWED BY SIGNING SESSION IN CARACAS. ZULETA, UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL FOR THE CONFERENCE, STATED THAT PERIOD JUNE 26 TO AUGUST 30 IN NEW YORK WAS AVAILABLE FOR THE CONFERENCE.

4. PLENARY COMMITTEE: LAST MEETING OF GENEVA SESSION OF LOS CONFERENCE HELD ON MAY 9. REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE ACCEPTED WITHOUT DISCUSSION. RECOMMENDATIONS OF GENERAL COMMITTEE REGARDING TIME, VENUE AND DURATION OF NEXT SESSION ADOPTED WITH ADDITION OF REQUEST FOR GA TO GIVE LOS CONFERENCE HIGHEST PRIORITY FOR USE OF FACILITIES. CONFERENCE PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE APPEALED FOR INTER-GROUP AS WELL AS INTRA-GROUP CONSULTATIONS. SECRETARIAT INDICATED THAT UN WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE INTER-SESSIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. "SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT" PREPARED BY CHAIRMEN OF THREE MAIN COMMITTEES WAS SAID TO MARK TURNING POINT IN CONFERENCE AS PROCEDURAL DEVICE TO PROVIDE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION.

5. UNILATERAL ACTION: AMERASINGHE MADE PERSONAL APPEAL ON BASIS OF REQUEST FROM GROUP OF 77 TO EXPRESS GRAVE CONCERN OVER CERTAIN PRONOUNCEMENTS TO EFFECT THAT IF TREATY IS NOT CONCLUDED, THEN THERE WOULD BE UNILATERAL ACTION REGARDING THE EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF THE DEEP SEABED. WHILE AMERASINGHE DID NOT FEEL CONFERENCE HAD GIVEN ITSELF ALL THE TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE NEGOTIATION, HE SAW NO JUSTIFICATION FOR UNILATERAL ACTION. HE MADE "FERVENT APPEAL" TO ALL STATES TO REFRAIN FROM UNILATERAL ACTION IN THE DEEP SEABED THAT WOULD JEOPARDIZE CONCLUSION OF TREATY AND STATED THERE WAS "TOO MUCH AT STAKE TO ACT PRECIPITOUSLY." AMERASINGHE THEN READ LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN OF LANDLOCKED/GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED STATES GROUP WHICH ALSO APPEALED TO STATES NOT TO TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION REGARDING MARITIME AREAS BEYOND 12 MILES. STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT OF UNEP WAS READ INTO RECORD.

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6. AMANDMENTS TO SINGLE TEXT: CHILE ASKED IF SECRETARIAT COULD CIRCULATE COMMENTS OR AMENDMENTS TO SINGLE TEXT IF THESE GOVERNMENTAL VIEWS WERE SUBMITTED TO U.S. U.S. EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT PROLIFERATION OF INDIVIDUAL STATE AMENDMENTS RATHER THAN COMMON AMENDMENTS. AFTER LEARNING OF UNPLANNED COSTS INVOLVED, AMERASINGHE RULED THAT GOVERNMENTS WOULD HAVE TO COMMUNICATE THEIR COMMENTS DIRECTLY TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS.ABRAMS

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